



Convention Resolution Submission

Title of Resolution

Strengthening Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Pedophilia

Summary of Resolution

This resolution affirms the South Dakota Republican Party's commitment to protecting children from sexual exploitation, abuse, and pedophilia as a core moral and platform principle, emphasizing the devastating impact of these crimes on victims and communities. Its primary purpose is to urge stronger legislative action, including harsher mandatory minimum sentences (such as life without parole for repeat offenders), expanded funding and tools for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force to combat rising online exploitation—highlighted by a sharp increase in Cybertips in recent years—and swift justice measures like mandatory restitution for victims and improved extradition processes. The intent is to rally GOP support for proactive, law-and-order policies that deter perpetrators, empower law enforcement without unnecessary government expansion, and position the party as a staunch defender of child safety ahead of future sessions and elections.

Whereas Statements

WHEREAS, the protection of innocent children from sexual exploitation, abuse, and pedophilia is a fundamental moral imperative and a core principle of the South Dakota Republican Party, as affirmed in our platform's opposition to the exploitation, trafficking, or abuse of children; and WHEREAS, child sexual abuse inflicts lifelong trauma on victims, undermines families, and threatens the safety and future of our communities; and WHEREAS, recent data from South Dakota's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force shows a sharp increase in Cybertips related to online sexual exploitation and victimization of children, including child sex trafficking, highlighting the growing threat of digital predators; and WHEREAS, high-profile cases in South Dakota—including arrests for possession of child pornography, sexual enticement of minors via the internet, and child exploitation during events like the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally—demonstrate both the persistence of these crimes and the need for enhanced enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Marty Jackley has advanced critical legislation in the 2026 session to equip law enforcement with tools such as investigative subpoena authority to identify and disrupt the dissemination of child pornography, and to strengthen penalties for related offenses; and WHEREAS, perpetrators of child sexual abuse and pedophilia must face swift, certain, and severe justice to deter future crimes, protect victims, and uphold the rule of law without unnecessary expansion of government bureaucracy;

Therefore Statements

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Republican Party strongly supports:

1. Increasing mandatory minimum sentences and enhancing penalties for convicted child sex offenders and pedophiles, including life without parole for repeat or aggravated offenders involving minors;
2. Full funding and expansion of specialized task forces, including the ICAC Task Force, to investigate and prosecute online child exploitation, child pornography possession/manufacture/distribution, and related human trafficking;
3. Mandating swift extradition processes for out-of-state perpetrators and improved coordination between state, federal, and local law enforcement to ensure no safe havens for these criminals;
4. Prioritizing victim-centered approaches, including mandatory restitution to victims, access to trauma-informed counseling, and support programs that empower families rather than relying on expansive state welfare systems;
5. Encouraging the Legislature to build on 2026 initiatives by closing any remaining gaps in statutes, such as stronger measures against grooming behaviors, enhanced monitoring of registered sex offenders, and protections against lenient sentencing that fail to reflect the gravity of these crimes;

Conclusion

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SDGOP calls upon all Republican legislators, candidates, and officeholders to champion these priorities in the upcoming sessions and elections, ensuring South Dakota remains a leader in protecting children and holding perpetrators accountable.

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Resolution

Confirmation

✓ I affirm I am an active, registered Republican in the State of South Dakota.

Your Name

Convention Resolution Submission (continued)

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Role / Title

County Executive Board Member

County

Hand

Organization